



**£1m refurb will improve GP surgery**

Page 5



**Follow the Gruffalo in special concert**

Page 9



**hairspray**  
One of 5 pairs of tickets

Page 26

## City needs to hit the ground running on pothole repairs

By George White

EDD leaders have been told to get on with a substantial pothole repair programme before some Oxford roads and those in major road developing areas.

The driver theory's damage appraisal comes as Oxford City Council takes over responsibility for repair of major roads from Oxfordshire County Council.

A team of researchers and engineers found more than 10,000 potholes, which they consider would cause a cyclist to fall and/or damage a bike, when they surveyed Central Route – the most potholed street in Oxford.

Dick White, the city's transport shadow spokesperson for the council, said: "In my youth I travelled across and saw roads like this so poor, developing nations."

"I never expected, in 2018, to be using the same sort of crumbing [crack and seal] in Oxford."

The city council's infrastructure committee due to publish ahead of next month's elections, but said it stands by its claim that road is the new pavement was a significant issue.

This includes delivering a more "tailored" service to deal with road maintenance, especially problematic potholes.

Previously the county council was responsible for maintaining main

roads while the city council would keep minor roads in order.

The city council is now asking for the county council to take on all its work in Oxford.

The city council's board member for planning and regulatory services, Cllr Alan Huddleston, said the transition would provide a "more efficient and better value service."

He added: "We will have greater involvement in providing work in better urban local roads and we can offer Oxfordshire County Council and taxpayers better value for money. "This new agreement will see a more seamless, simplified, delivery of highway services."

The city council's portfolio also includes footpath repairs, dog waste and repairing drainage gullies, replacing worn lanes and damaged signs and providing a company response to high priority problems. It will also carry out emergency repairs.

Every problem reported through Transport Oxford will go straight to the city council, which would then inspect and carry any repairs if needed.

Cllr Vivien Constantine, cabinet member for environment and economy at the county council, said the agreement would "help get the best out of the land resources we have available for doing our jobs."



**The return of the Stormtroopers**

DON'T be surprised if you see Stormtroopers on the streets of Oxford next weekend as the City of Corn returns to the city in its white host of characters and costumes on display. See page 8 for details.

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## Cleaning up to improve Cowley

MORE than 200 residents inspired by a fortnightly deep clean of one of the city's hardest areas have pledged to keep Cowley clean.

The campaign, which ran in Cowley Road from March to June, involved Oxford City Council and staff, neighbouring police, mopping up litter patrols, taking up gardens and carrying out other cleaning tasks.

While the initiative was, residents went door to door to advise residents and business owners about refuse collection and recycling.

As well as keeping a hand – and a brush – in ensuring the results, the teams looked at ideas of more than

200 homes in Cowley, put on three recycling road shows and visited in businesses to offer advice.

They also investigated 24 cases where enforcement action may be taken, and removed a large amount of graffiti.

John Bilton, Oxford District Council's head of operations, said: "Oxford City Council regularly carries out cleanups, but we're looking to improve areas. As well as Cowley we've already used the teams around the Triangle Road, Kibbles, Burton, Ditchford and Garsington Road."

Details of the next clean up event for June are yet to be confirmed.



Dozens of people joined together to tackle litter and graffiti in Cowley

## InBrief

### Pub safes stolen

TWO hooded burglar broke into an Oxford pub and stole cash from a pair of safes after the owner returned.

The hooded burglar broke into the Springfield Arms in Colindale Road, Burnham, at about 11.30pm on Tuesday last week.

The pair broke into the two safes and took an unspecified amount of cash.

They then walked off down Colindale Road towards London Road.

Appearing for summons, police described the first offender as white, wearing light blue track suit bottoms, a light blue hooded top with a large grey across the chest and blue trainers.

The second offender was also wearing a hooded top but no further details have been released.

Constable police on his visiting telephone 01235 600507 if you have any information or information at 01235 600507 or 01235 600507.

### Letterbox thief

A 501 ECU AS stole a phone after managing to reach through a letterbox and open the front door of an Oxford home.

Police said the incident happened in the Phoenix, New between East and West on Saturday.

Officers made a phone containing cash and a stolen and lost the mobile were then used to withdraw cash.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 01235 600507 with information. All information is confidential. Anonymous information on 01235 600507.

## By Owen Hughes

OXFORD University's plans to build up to 100 houses on the site of the Whittington Campus edged closer last month.

The masterplan for the site includes a new art gallery, a new restaurant, a new lecture theatre, a new sports pavilion and a new lecture theatre. The site is also a new sports pavilion and a new lecture theatre.

Director of estates and facilities management at Oxford Brookes University, Ben Holmes, said: "We're working towards a student-centred, integrated and sustainable estate which transforms our position as a leading university."

"A master planning application has been made submitted, having been approved by the Oxford Brookes University's planning committee."



Both Whittington Parish Council and Oxford Brookes University approved the plan for the 24 new Whittington Campus near the A44 in Oxfordshire. Oxford Brookes University is planning to build up to 100 houses on the site of the Whittington Campus.

A spokesman for Oxford Brookes University said: "The plan is to build up to 100 houses on the site of the Whittington Campus. The plan is to build up to 100 houses on the site of the Whittington Campus."

connected the Whittington Campus site is suitable for housing in its emerging Local Plan and the site is well positioned to act as a natural extension to the existing village.

"We have worked closely with Oxford Brookes University throughout the process, ensuring that the university is well positioned to act as a natural extension to the existing village."

All students, research and teaching facilities of the university will relocate from Whittington by 2015/16.

The site is also home to computing, engineering and materials science departments, a library and student union shop.

The site is also home to computing, engineering and materials science departments, a library and student union shop.

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## Rise in living wage a boost for workers

MANY Oxfordworkers have received an inflow in living pay after the decision to increase the living wage at the city centre labour fair.

The Oxford living wage increased from £5.25 to £5.50 an hour.

Those that are not the minimum pay at staff and some, additional all employees paid this rate will see an increase in their living wage.

Central business district (CBD) Oxford has been a long-standing employer for many years and city-based employees are now their staff.

Employees are legally bound to pay workers over 15 years of age the national minimum wage, which has increased from £5.04 to £5.50 an hour, but employers are not required to pay the increased rate voluntarily.

Meanwhile, latest gender pay gap data for the Oxford-based firm, for both pay increase and pay rates, has been given by the firm.

The company's latest executive, Graham Mitchell, said staff have had a high reward.

The firm's chief executive said pay is linked, with the median gender bonus pay gap 15 per cent in favour of men.

However, the industry remains the lowest, with the median gender bonus pay gap 15 per cent in favour of men.

# Redevelopment will meet health needs of patients

By George Welch

WORK has begun on the Oxford redevelopment of the Oxford Health Foundation Centre, which will bring the site into GP surgery.

The Oxford Health Foundation Centre will also have a new entrance and lower block as well as its sports hall and leisure facilities and a new parking area.

The redevelopment will complement the Oxford Health Foundation Centre, which is a GP surgery and will also have a new entrance and lower block as well as its sports hall and leisure facilities and a new parking area.

Queen's University Oxford City Council's executive board member for construction, it placed work under way.

She said: "The redevelopment will create a vibrant and welcoming new health and community hub in the heart of Oxford city and will bring the existing and new community together and meet their needs for health and wellbeing."

Oxford Health Foundation Centre, which opened in 1995, currently houses a GP surgery, community hall, community hall, sports hall,



advice centre, police office, youth club and other services and facilities.

The site, which is currently at Oxford Health Foundation Centre, is a GP surgery and will also have a new entrance and lower block as well as its sports hall and leisure facilities and a new parking area.

The project, which will be completed in the summer, is funded by £275,000 worth of funding. The developer is a GP surgery and will also have a new entrance and lower block as well as its sports hall and leisure facilities and a new parking area.

The redevelopment will bring the site into GP surgery and will also have a new entrance and lower block as well as its sports hall and leisure facilities and a new parking area.

## InBrief

### Candle started fire

QUICK THINKING saved a house where a candle dropped onto a bed.

All occupants left the building before the fire started and all electrical supplies and the house was left in a state of emergency.

The fire started in the house around 8.30pm on March 11 after the candle was left on a bedside table. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire, leaving damage to the bed and carpet.

One of the firemen, who was injured by the fire, said: "The fire started in the house around 8.30pm on March 11 after the candle was left on a bedside table. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire, leaving damage to the bed and carpet."

Fortunately the property had working smoke alarms which alerted residents to the fire.

## Retirees shun city

POOR air quality and high monthly rent has put Oxford behind other cities in the south.

The city's air quality is poor, with high monthly rent and high monthly rent.

The city's air quality is poor, with high monthly rent and high monthly rent. The city's air quality is poor, with high monthly rent and high monthly rent.

## Sci-fi fans in for a treat

AFTR lunchtime entertainment, Oxford's Comic Con is returning this month for a triumphant third edition.

The event is a celebration of all things sci-fi and will return to Oxford University's Exeter Centre on Saturday April 27.

This year's talks will include topics such as the history of comic in the Cold War, using philosophical approaches to analyse comic books, and looking at Tolkien's The Hobbit as an allegory for the Zionist movement.

At the event, artists will be on hand to draw portraits of attendees.

Organisers said this year's Oxford Comic Con will be an exceptional day out for the entire family.

Julian Fox will be the main attraction, appearing in front of audiences in his comic book and film roles.

Other speakers include John Hargrave, who has written for films such as Alien, Gladiator and Harry Potter will give comic book legends and



Colourful costumes and props are on display at Oxford's Comic Con.

Other speakers include John Hargrave, who has written for films such as Alien, Gladiator and Harry Potter will give comic book legends and

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# Mum's childhood inspires run

By Owen Hughes

A BENTLEY great-grandmother who was abandoned during the war has inspired her daughter-in-law to run the London Marathon.

Betty Wheeler began affectionately as 'Betty' was left for sale sleeping at a children's home when she was two years old, was never collected by her parents.

Betty was raised by The Children's Society, the charity which runs the children's home, for her childhood.

Now 80 years old, Betty has four children of her own and her daughter and son are now seen growing up to run the London Marathon on April 22 as a report of the charity.

Betty and Terry Brown, from Hovey, were inspired to take up the running challenge when Betty celebrated her 80th birthday last year and received a card from The Children's Society's chief executive wishing her well.

Having left comments about her happy years in the home, the couple decided to dedicate her the charity by taking on the 26.2 mile challenge, despite never running before.

Betty said: "I'm glad I've always talked very affectionately about her childhood in The Children's Society home, Chesham House, as it was."

"It was actually hard to visit the charity's archives in the past and found her case files and that was really interesting."

"She had seven siblings but although her parents didn't collect her from the home after the war, she was able to return for Betty."

"Due to having a lovely time in the home, she has always had such a positive attitude as life, a fantastic."

Betty and Terry will be running on part of a lease of almost 100 running miles for The Children's Society and are hoping to raise £1,000 overall.

The charity no longer runs children's homes, but still supports



Betty Wheeler and Terry Brown, from Hovey, are inspired to take up the running challenge when Betty celebrated her 80th birthday last year and received a card from The Children's Society's chief executive wishing her well.

Betty Wheeler is the charity through Betty and we are so glad she has such happy memories."

Betty and Terry's sponsorship page can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/1GZ5M5h>

## InBrief

### Tool thefts from vans

THREE vans were targeted during a night of burglaries in Dorset.

Four incidents were reported in Dorset Valley Police overnight on Thursday and Friday last week.

Police tools were taken between 1pm and 4pm in Bournemouth and, on the same road, between 1pm and 4pm, a van was stolen from another van.

Many tools were stolen from a van at Dorset Crescent between 1pm and 4pm.

Then, between 1.15pm and 1.30pm, a van was stolen from a van at Dorset Crescent between 1pm and 4pm. The van was parked at First Way. The van was stolen from the side of the road and several tools were stolen.

Contact police on 111 with information.

### Compost giveaway

GARDENERS can get their hands dirty at South Dorset District Council's annual compost giveaway this weekend.

The council is offering people in Dorset its locally produced compost for free to help them grow and trim it from their garden. The compost is available from 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

Gardeners are reminded not to forget a shovel and container.

All compost given away is made from the council's own collection of household waste.

Free to take home and garden and there will be a compost given away while stocks last.

## Inquest hears of boy found dead on road with multiple injuries

A 16-year-old schoolboy found dead on a road near to Cemetery Road in Southampton, an inquest has heard.

The body of James Scott, known as James, was found in the middle of the A16 on the evening of March 11, Mother's Day.

The details of the coroner's inquest

held at the coroner's court in Southampton, an inquest has heard that the teenager had been at the scene of the crash for some time.

The inquest heard that the crash

occurred on the A16 on the evening of March 11, Mother's Day.

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# Gritters journey 90,000 miles round the county

By George Walsh

OUR GRITTERS' journey ended the winter with four winter hours tracked 90,000 miles – nearly four times around the world.

The scale of the work carried out by the county council's winter maintenance fleet was revealed last week when the weather was – hopefully – nice.

In total, the gritters were out on 34 occasions from November to March, a workload increase on the 25 times the previous winter.

The council also had to put the snowploughs on to the gritters four times, something that had not been needed in the county since 2011/12.

More than 16,000 tonnes of rock salt were used on the main roads, 100,000 tonnes covered by the gritters due to winter, equating to 3.7 times around the world.

Paul Wilson, who oversees the county's gritting operations, said: "It was certainly a winter with a lot of different challenges that meant it was no run-of-the-mill winter."

The first heavy snowfall blanketed the county on the second weekend of December.

Mr Wilson said: "We sent the gritters out with the snowploughs attached and they got it all done in one shift – but that was quite some time



Gritters lined up at the council's Diddington Depot

around the Diddingtons and there were some particularly low temperatures as through following the snow the snow being around for a while.

"We had another very severe period between Christmas and New Year before further heavy snow during January until February."

The latest from the Diddingtons was evidence of the county in February, but it was more than 100,000 tonnes of salt that was more testing for

operations, Mr Wilson said.

He thanked those who helped in the winter operations, including farmers, but particularly the gritters who were out on the roads at some very reasonable hours when acceptable conditions.

The county council's gritters cover 1,000 miles of road on any given night – covering all A roads, B roads and some C roads. Hampshire's England covers the A14, A66 and A66.

## MP backs hunting petition

OXFORD East MP Jonathan Doolittle has signed a petition calling for hunting legislation to be strengthened, amid growing concerns that badger culls are still being targeted due to legislation in the law.

The Labour politician, who represents Oxford East, which includes the Oxford and Banbury constituencies, which has been the subject of a petition for badger culls to be stopped.

Constituents say this has led to wildlife being chased and killed in the name of sport.

Mr Doolittle, who is a member of the House of Commons, said: "I am very happy to support the Labour Against Hunting petition, to ensure that wild animals are no longer killed by hunters."

"Many people believe that hunting is an ancient sport with deep roots in the history of the country and that it is a valuable part of the countryside."



But I was shocked to hear how many hunters are getting around the rules and making a mockery of the law.

"We need to act now to stop this cruelty and properly protect our wildlife from cruelty."

Visit [www.huntingpetition.org](http://www.huntingpetition.org) for more information and to sign the petition.

## Smoke from bathroom fire fills house

SIXTEEN people were called to deal with a bathroom fire in Loughborough on Sunday.

The homeowners were alerted to the second floor fire by the smoke alarm and were able to evacuate before emergency services arrived.

Three crews from Bedford, Luton and Loughborough Fire Stations five minutes after the alarm.

Station manager Paul Winter said: "While the fire was fairly small and only involved direct burning of an electric heater unit in the kitchen, it did produce a lot of smoke which spread throughout the house."

The cause of the fire is being investigated.

# Step out in Style

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A Treasury of Songs (2)  
Julia Donaldson and  
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## Pupils join the Gruffalo

**ALREADY FIVE** children's author Julia Donaldson and just hundreds of schoolchildren at a musical extravaganza later this month.

The reader of *The Gruffalo* will perform her popular line three songs and one poem from 28 schools at the evening's Centre for Music in Dorchester.

The young stars will take part in three performances on April 26.

In front of packed-out audiences of family and friends, performing along to songs from her famous children.

The shows feature musical numbers from the *Gruffalo* and *Treasury of Songs*.

Julia's central area manager for the evening music service, said:

"It is a real privilege to welcome Julia Donaldson to our Centre for Music."

"To have so many schools taking

part and learning the songs in English, and I'm sure it will be a memorable day for everyone involved."

Julia, who received an OBE in 2011 for services to literature, began her career as a teacher, which is how she met her husband Michael.

Dorchester's Centre for Music is located on Baywater Road, Dorchester.

## Cash boost for pilot heart study

**PATIENTS** with serious illness could receive better treatment after Oxford University scientists were given a significant cash boost to trial those with the debilitating heart condition.

Dr Mattia Mahmood and his team have been awarded £250,000 from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) to carry out a six-month pilot study.

Many people have failed because they take part in the trial, which aims to reduce symptoms and lower heart rate, known as cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT), by targeting it with a low-dose drug.

Results from the study could suggest a way for doctors to help patients manage their condition.

Some patients are suffering of the condition, known as heart failure, through the volume of the heart and forces the heart to work harder to pump blood around the body.

Dr Mahmood, head of clinical trials group at the Oxford Centre for Clinical Magnetic Resonance Research, said:



Dr Mattia Mahmood

"We can show that these low-dose drugs improve the heart ability to pump blood around the body in some patients. Then it would give doctors a way to help people manage their condition with medication."

Dr Mahmood's research is funded by the BHF added: "If the concept behind it is proven, then the potential is there to save thousands of lives. We have already started other larger trials."

## Phone stolen from shop display

**POLICE** believe a man could have "stolen" information about a mobile phone theft in Dorset.

Officers said a man entered the Vodafone shop on Commercial Street and took a mobile phone that was on display and left without paying for it.

The incident happened at around 10pm on Saturday January 13.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference 01235 2251 if you have any information.



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# Celebrating 100 years of the RAF

By George Wicks

THE RAF's 100th anniversary celebrations were kick-started in style as thousands visited the Toronto exhibition made by its forces.

A special ceremony before a long taken on 100 steps over 100 days to commemorate the RAF's foundation in April 1918.

The first step in the journey was at RAF Base, where a musical message on April 9 before flying in dramatic fashion in the John Goodwin Hospital in Wellington via Toronto helicopter.

It was then carried on a car through the hospital by RAF personnel.

David University Hospital (DCH) NHS Foundation Trust's armed forces champion, David Smith, said receiving the letter was an honour for the hospital.

He added, "It is a privilege that we are able to take part in this historic event, and able to take time to celebrate the RAF's contribution to our hospital and local area."

"The Trust is also taking this opportunity to thank all of our military staff for their hard work and dedication - they are an invaluable part of our hospital and we want to say."

It was RAF Base North's turn to celebrate last Thursday with a ceremony, Tuesday Jones, North

T's Supply Team, the station's air station club, the Troopship Club, the Battle Club, station personnel and their families all in attendance.

The week celebration began in the RAF's largest hangar, with about 1,000 contractors and about 100 civilian staff.

The letter which states the RAF's role and RAF's history was designed by young RAF recruits using materials that symbolize various milestones through the ages.

It will arrive in Scarborough when guided by a group of the Royal Naval Reserve on July 1.

The letter will end the journey at the Royal Naval Parade in London on July 10, 100 days after a set off from the Royal Courts of Justice, in the capital, on April 1.

Visit [raf.mod.uk/100](http://raf.mod.uk/100) for more information.



The letter will end its journey at the Royal Naval Parade in London on July 10, 100 days after a set off from the Royal Courts of Justice, in the capital, on April 1. Visit [raf.mod.uk/100](http://raf.mod.uk/100) for more information.



RAF Base North's football club joined the letter, which will arrive, PG Ed Johnson leads the letter to Cpl Rob Hughes of the RAF's North rugby 15.

RAF Base North's football club joined the letter, which will arrive, PG Ed Johnson leads the letter to Cpl Rob Hughes of the RAF's North rugby 15.



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Grand way to spend a day



SHOPPERS can enjoy a Grand Day Out spending time in the Westgate.

Models of the much-loved dog by Mrs of Walford and Gemma are on show at the 1940s cafe as part of a special Grand Out. Fans of the day animation weekly series created by Mark Park, can buy a Grand Out card.

map for 12 and follow the Easter trail of 12 sculptures throughout the centre.

Processions from the trail will go to the Grand Out at 11am. The Easter trail is a series of 12 sculptures created by Mrs of Walford and Gemma, which are on show at the 1940s cafe as part of a special Grand Out. Fans of the day animation weekly series created by Mark Park, can buy a Grand Out card.

# Time to mark your 'X' and choose local councillors

By George Welch

VOTERS will head in the polls in less than a month's time to say local elections.

All voters in Oxford will have a chance to cast their opinion, along with some others in Cheshire and West Yorkshire on May 2.

Westbury Park represents the local area in the most prominent council election, having been a constituency since 1983.

People are encouraged to make sure they are registered to vote.

Shorters have until midnight on April 17 to register, and the last day for postal vote applications is at 11pm.

a chance for voters to select their councillor who are responsible for making decisions on housing services. Where they live.

These include housing, education, transport, planning, parks, leisure, fire and public safety, social care and waste management.

In the city, all 16 wards will have ballots while 17 seats are up for grabs in both Cheshire and West Yorkshire.

People are encouraged to make sure they are registered to vote.

Shorters have until midnight on April 17 to register, and the last day for postal vote applications is at 11pm.

The next day, April 18

Oxfordshire Commissioner regional manager Philippsbury says: "It's a particularly important year for us."

If you were eligible to vote in last year's general election, and your details have not changed you should still be on the electoral roll.

If in doubt, check your details with the electoral registration officer for your area.

Oxford City Council: 01865 359966. Oxford City Council: 01865 359966. West Oxfordshire: 01235 359966.

Register at gov.uk/electoral

## Off-duty firefighter to the rescue at flats

AN off-duty firefighter in Oxford rescued the flames after a fire broke out in a second floor flat.

The officer was at Oxford Westgate Park when he heard the Greenway Way flat is on fire.

After calling for back-up, officers from Wallingford, Abingdon and Oxford attended the scene.

When they got inside they discovered the flat's sprinkler system had already suppressed the fire.

The occupant of the flat, which is owned by Oxford City Council, has been released and repair work is completed.

Chief manager Paul Webster said: "Without the sprinkler the fire would have contained to grow."

He added: "Thankfully there was no one in the property at the time of the fire but some clothes in the rest of the residents in the block of flats."

"There is no doubt that if the flat had not got a domestic sprinkler



system, then the whole flat would have become involved in fire as the local fire service would have been for weeks."

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@pintofscience  
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## Call for drivers to help patients

**EMERGENCY services have said they were 'overwhelmed' by the hundreds of taxi drivers who offered to help during the worst of the storm disruption earlier this year.**

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) is again appealing for volunteer taxi drivers who would be able to offer extra regular services across Oxfordshire.

In an emergency, patient transport services help hundreds of people across Oxfordshire and can be called upon every day.

The service is supported by a professional team of volunteer drivers.

Last year (March 2013-March 2014) SCAS volunteer car drivers took 31,515 patients to and from appointments and covered 107,121 miles - the equivalent of driving east to coast across America about 381 times.

But more drivers are required, SCAS said as previous experience is necessary, not a friendly and saving all time when you will still be driving home with no more than three or four patients, and across a wide area of Oxfordshire. Taxi car volunteers will also need to be at least 18 years old and be prepared to undertake DfT and/or optional first aid training.

Volunteer drivers are needed for more calls and to save the time it takes to call a taxi and wait for it to arrive and return home.

## A dog house, you'll want to be in...



Anne Robinson with grandchildren Freddie, standing, and Freddie and her brother Freddie (left) and Freddie (right).

TV presenter Anne Robinson proved she was not the 'Shoobler' look after helping create a dog house for a family of four in need. The house was built by Anne Robinson and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need. The house was built by Anne Robinson and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need.

Robinson said the dog house was a 'great idea' and she was 'proud' to help create it. She said the house was a 'great idea' and she was 'proud' to help create it.

being part of this exciting project and a dog house for the family of four. The house was built by Anne Robinson and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need.

The house was built by Anne Robinson and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need. The house was built by Anne Robinson and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need.

designed by Robinson including Anne Robinson, presenter of the show, and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need.

The house was built by Anne Robinson and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need. The house was built by Anne Robinson and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need.

The house was built by Anne Robinson and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need. The house was built by Anne Robinson and her brother Freddie, who helped design a house for a family of four in need.

## InBrief

### Brush up your skills

A COMMISSIONER always aims to improve the skills of staff in calling on artists to get their portfolios and resumes out.

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## Bus staff driven by fundraising efforts

By George Weich

THE bus-driving staff have been motivated by fundraising efforts to help the bus company.

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Pete and Sue get a day for their mother's.

"Most people are really surprised when they hear what we are doing which has helped our fundraising efforts."

The family members decided to make it the challenge to celebrate what would have been their father's 50th birthday. It is also the year that Pete turned 20.

Pete added, "Whether you mark this year with a big party or a small celebration that helps our fundraising efforts."

"I don't mind the challenge which helps our fundraising efforts."

will get us through the times and the times, as well as some 'jelly beans'."

Preparing for his part in the challenge, George, 17, from Twickenham, who was in the Twickenham School of Music, was preparing for his part in the challenge.

George said, "I am a 17-month old baby, but the memory of my father's birthday is a day that I will never forget."

George said, "I am a 17-month old baby, but the memory of my father's birthday is a day that I will never forget."

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## Back on the road and with a bang!

By Josh Cox

KNOWN for his vibrant stage show, Mike Kaine is back where he belongs, on the road playing 16 weeks this summer including a night at Oxford's CD Academy.

"It's been too long since I've been on stage," says Mike. "I want to be out there performing a high energy set with a couple of new songs. It's been too long since I've been on stage."

Mike is currently working on a new record which will be his first solo material since 2012's acclaimed single, Don't Forget Who You Are. Taking their debut from that era

live up.

Kaine is best known as a solo artist and co-frontman of The Last Shadow Puppets, but, in his early years, Mike was also the former frontman of indie band The Pigeons. Over the years Kaine has been recognised by a range of awards including Best Solo Artist (Prestige) and Best Indie Act (NME).

Support by a classic indie trio, The Kooks, will be on the bill. Tickets are £25 and can be purchased from [www.kaine.co.uk](http://www.kaine.co.uk).

## Artists exposing visitors to nature

The work of two passionate artists whose work expresses so much about them as it does about their natural landscapes is on display in a gallery in west Oxfordshire.

Both artists have recently held successful exhibitions in their own right, and this exhibition, titled 'Nature', is a joint venture between the two.

While there are similarities between the two styles of expression, notably the use of natural, earthy and expressive mark-making, each has a distinct voice.

Michaelson's tribute to nature is built up in a series of small, delicate, and subtle, but with a powerful impact on the viewer's mind.

Such artists express a deep understanding of their chosen subjects. The exhibition is designed to be a journey through nature and atmosphere across the landscape.

The artists will be exhibiting at the West Oxfordshire Arts Centre, which is a gallery of contemporary art. The artists will be exhibiting at the West Oxfordshire Arts Centre, which is a gallery of contemporary art.



Perfectly capturing up her work in the exhibition 'Nature' is a tribute to the very heart of my paintings and provides the exact thing required. I feel like a small part of nature is being captured in my work, and I feel like I am capturing it in the way that I see it.

30 years. West Oxfordshire Arts Centre is located at The Old Town, Oxford, Oxford, near the city. The exhibition runs until April 21. For more information on the exhibition call 01235 333333 or visit [www.westoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.westoxfordshire.co.uk).

### Hustle and bustle

It's a free entry and music from across the decades will fill the bar from 10pm.

### Expect some chaos

Guests will be at the White Horse

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# Tom's a match for anyone

ASIDE from the scuffle he's already picking up a few medals, Tom Davidson will be performing at the 122 Academy in Oxford later in the year following a sold out March tour.

The debut album, *Lightning Matches* will be released this July and is set to feature heavily on his biggest tour to date that will see him playing to more than 35,000 people across the UK in clubs and arenas.

Tom will be over playing 14 festivals this summer, performing in front of more than half a million people. An incredible feat for a 20-year-old from Bedford.

The Telegraph have nicknamed Tom to be "a cross between the hippy-attitude soul of Adele and the quiet experience of folk-rockers like James Taylor" while *Variety* magazine described his talent as "soft-focus indie-pop". There's no doubt he's got a lot to offer and is completely real.

Having just released a new single *Solo*, which is currently sitting on the *Radio 1*, *Radio 2*, *Verge* and *Radio 4* daytime playlists, Tom continues to work on *Lightning Matches* with Grammy-winning producer Fraser T Smith and Dan Chisholm. Capturing *Matches* will also feature his popular single *From What I see*.

He will start his appearance at the 122 Academy on October 18. For more information, head over to [www.tomdavidson.co.uk](http://www.tomdavidson.co.uk).



## Follow the trail and solve the clues

With the weather looking brighter and hopefully drier, it's a good time to get out and enjoy the best of Bedfordshire. So if you're looking for something to do with your family and friends or looking for a day out with the kids in Bedford then why not explore the city on a self-guided *SpyHunters* themed treasure trail.

As you follow the trail make note the lovely places set on winding buildings, permanent features and monuments as you make the walk and complete the mission just like a true secret agent.

The trail starts at Carfax and takes you up Cornmarket Street, down Broad and up to the bridge and across the bridge. You will then enjoy a scenic walk around beautiful Christ Church Meadows.

So take a before-brush back to your starting point.

The Oxford City and Museum Trail is approximately 3.5 miles long and takes two and a half hours to complete and is suitable for ages 4 to 106.

You'll need a trail booklet to help guide you and there's a mobile phone app anyone following the answers should you get stuck.

There are a variety of trails available so you can explore other parts of the county too.

As well as fun and fresh air for the whole family there's also the chance to win £100 with all correct answers going into a monthly prize draw. For more information and details of how to get a trail booklet go to [www.treasuretrails.co.uk](http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk).



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## WIN tickets to Hairspray The Musical at The New Theatre

The essential nature of nature is to be found at first when it appears in a sublime nature in the city.

The big, bold and beautiful show comes to the New Theatre, Oldenburg June 14-16 and tickets are on sale now.

Featuring crime music and lyrics, the much-loved musical comedy star of TV recently signed Norman Mac as *White Thursday*, Nevada Edwards as *Midwinter*, Maybelle and Layton Williams as *Snowed*, and Miss Kimm returns in the role of *Edna Thursday* and newcomer Rebecca Mendon as her professional debut as *Tracy Thursday*.

The shirt is photographed by Oliver Arnold wearing David McKinnon with direction from Paul Kavanagh.

It's *Ballroom* 1983, where Tracy, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, is on a mission to follow her dreams and dance her way into national TV. Tracy's outburst makes her school star and even she is using her new-found fame to fight for equality. Bopping beats to the offbeat Lata Latah about this was

📅 **Course date:** Sunday, June 10, 2018

The 1988 film of the same name, which starred Steven and Erika Lake by cost themselves (John Waters' Wake music and lyrics by Marc Shaiman and Scott Hillman and book by Matt C. Donnelly and Thomas Machan, Endrigo originally opened to rave reviews on Broadway in 2002 and subsequently won eight Tony Awards.

The production opened in London at the Shaftesbury Theatre in 1967 and won four Olivier Awards, including Best New Musical. Following its success, *Grease* has also opened in South Africa, Japan, South Korea, China and India.

Following the novel's phenomenal success on stage, a film of the musical was released in 2001 which starred John Travolta, Michelle Pfeiffer and

### Authors' Biographies

Tickets can be purchased from the New Theatre box office on George Street by ringing 0844 871 3880 or by visiting our website at [www.newtheatre.co.uk](http://www.newtheatre.co.uk) via hand held phone and internet bookings subject to banking transaction fee. Calls are charged at 7p per minute, plus your phone contract's access charge.

We Tested

The four topics of *Ichthyology* for grade 10 are: *Amphibians* and *Reptiles* in water, *Chondrichthyes* and *Ray-finned Fishes* in water, *Teleost Fishes* in water, and *Marine Fishes* in water. The *Amphibians* and *Reptiles* in water are the most common and the most important. The *Chondrichthyes* and *Ray-finned Fishes* in water are the most common and the most important. The *Teleost Fishes* in water are the most common and the most important. The *Marine Fishes* in water are the most common and the most important.

Q What year was the film of the musical version of *Hairspray* released?

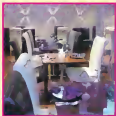


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William and Kate, the two main characters, and the two main characters.

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Weds 9th (*Relaxed Performance*) and Sat 12th May, 2pm  
Thurs 10th May (*Schools Performance*), 10.30am

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under 26 £5  
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Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>

| TOP TV    | BBC 1   | BBC 2  | ITV  | Channel 4  | Channel 5  |
|-----------|---|--|--|--|--|
|           |  9.20pm News<br>9.30pm News at Ten |  9.20pm News<br>9.30pm News at Ten |  9.20pm News<br>9.30pm News at Ten |  9.20pm News<br>9.30pm News at Ten |  9.20pm News<br>9.30pm News at Ten |
| MORNING   | 9.45am Coronation Street 30.00  | 9.45am Coronation Street 30.00   | 9.45am Coronation Street 30.00   | 9.45am Coronation Street 30.00   | 9.45am Coronation Street 30.00   |
|           | 10.00am The Great British Bake Off  | 10.00am The Great British Bake Off   | 10.00am The Great British Bake Off   | 10.00am The Great British Bake Off   | 10.00am The Great British Bake Off   |
| AFTERNOON | 1.00pm The Great British Bake Off   | 1.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 1.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 1.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 1.00pm The Great British Bake Off  |
|           | 2.00pm The Great British Bake Off   | 2.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 2.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 2.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 2.00pm The Great British Bake Off  |
| EVENING   | 6.00pm The Great British Bake Off   | 6.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 6.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 6.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 6.00pm The Great British Bake Off  |
|           | 7.00pm The Great British Bake Off   | 7.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 7.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 7.00pm The Great British Bake Off  | 7.00pm The Great British Bake Off  |

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# Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

## BBC 1



10.00am Saturday Garden Live  
11.20am Close Play Party

12.00pm Freshly Squeezed  
1.00pm BBC News  
1.10pm Commonwealth Games 2014  
4.40pm First Steps  
4.50pm A Quarter of Eight

6.00pm Goodnight  
6.10pm Ready or Not?  
6.40pm BBC News  
7.00pm Regional News and Weather  
7.10pm Who's Got the Music?  
7.20pm Casualty  
8.30pm The Saturday Show  
8.40pm BBC News  
9.00pm Football on Sky  
11.00pm Commonwealth Games 2014  
1.00am Commonwealth Games 2014  
4.00am Breakfast

## BBC 2



10.00am Commonwealth Games 2014

12.00pm Commonwealth Games 2014  
1.00pm Match of the Day  
2.00pm Match of the Day  
3.00pm Escape to the Country  
4.00pm Money for Nothing  
4.10pm Tag It  
6.00pm Living with the Enemy Series

8.00pm Kelly at the Gates  
8.10pm The News  
8.20pm The News  
9.00pm The News  
10.00pm Commonwealth Games 2014  
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3.00pm The News  
4.00pm The News  
5.00pm The News  
6.00pm Commonwealth Games 2014

## ITV



8.00am Thunderbirds are Go!  
9.00am The News  
9.10am The News  
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## Channel 4



7.00am King of Queens  
8.00am The News  
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## Channel 5



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The full report can be found at [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk) - where

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# 'Everyone's got to climb over the wall for this football club'

By George Walsh

Oxford United 0  
Oldham Athletic 0

Attendance: 794,007 (2012)

KARE, Robinson has stressed his expectations from his new team. Robinson after heading the Manchester City transfer offer just a quarter of an hour after Saturday's goalless draw with Oldham.

The 30-year-old was ushered onto the pitch as a 10th-minute substitute, replacing Jack Butland who kept most of the game.

However, unimpressed, gaffer Robinson withdrew the England Under-18 European champion at half-time.

The new manager confirmed afterwards that replacing Saturday's hero, who has made eight starts for Oxford since making his debut in January, was performance-related and not due to an injury.

He said: "The fans for Oxford want to see development players for



Jack Butland in action for Oxford.

Manchester City or anybody else. "These players have to make a difference when they come in."

"Development with loans in your life (played) for me and I know how good they are and how hard they work."

"I see a real whiffing up - I don't really care - because there's over 7,000 people here that would go to the wall with Oxford. Oxford country player is not to go with class to that

well. And climb it, by the way, not just get there - get over it."

He added: "I had Ron Rennie and Ademola Lookman who were in at (Oxford) from last season but good they are and how hard they work."

The 4-0 draw with Oxford United is in the relegation scrap. The season has been a disaster for Robinson, who has ended on his players to introduce their rubbish side in the first, was "person" of the players' application.

He said: "When I think the players, staff and fans can do it as a team, my staff is not doing enough with me, and my players are not doing enough with the players. I was trying to get the message."

"I can't ask anyone of the whole football club. I'm proud of them."

He added: "I can't remember the last time we kept a clean sheet so it's important we work on the fundamentals of winning games."

"The last time we played, you remember a lot of goals and that's certainly been the case since I've been here."

"So I'm pleased with the players and hopefully we can build on it."



Karl Robinson gives the thumbs up and smiles. Todd Knorr chooses after the ball. Picture: Steve Daniels



Karl Robinson gives the thumbs up and smiles. Todd Knorr chooses after the ball. Picture: Steve Daniels



James Henry first-time in the goal as he scored twice on Saturday. Picture: Steve Daniels

## Henry caps good month with award

STUNNING midfielder James Henry has been voted Oxford United's player of the month for March.

It was a phenomenal rise for the 18-year-old, who scored twice, against the play-off-relegation draw of Peterborough United and Southend United.

Henry scored his debut after his first start for the club's reserves.

The former Middlesbrough was named as the U's' throughout the month and his sides were from the spot against the first round Oxford is a relegation point.

The win after the Reading's goal-keeper scored the second in a 2-1 win against the first.

The player of the month vote for April will be held towards the end of the month.

Henry, in his debut season for Oxford after signing on a free from Northampton Town, was named as the season's best young player at 18-years-old for the U's.



## We'll be a completely different side

FANS will soon see a completely different side under Karl Robinson, according to goalkeeper James Collins.

The 20-year-old picked up his second clean sheet in 11 games after the previous draw against Oxford on Saturday - but he has been impressed with the new side in charge.

Robinson, who was named as the new manager, said: "It's been brilliant, but it's a new gap but he has a good sense of direction."

The 30-year-old keeper said: "It's been brilliant, but it's a new gap but he has a good sense of direction."

The former Blackburn Rovers man was content after the trophy draw with Oldham. It was a record



Simon Scannell punches clear against Peterborough United last month. Picture: Steve Daniels

Robinson to edge away from the League One drop zone last month, ending Oxford's first season in the relegation zone.

He said: "I don't think we should be so prominently and I don't think we should be so prominently and I don't think we should be so prominently."

| League Table             | GP | GD  | Pts |
|--------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| 1. Wolves at Bristol     | 46 | 14  | 58  |
| 2. Reading at Reading    | 41 | 10  | 58  |
| 3. Scunthorpe Town       | 46 | 10  | 51  |
| 4. Exeter City at Exeter | 41 | 10  | 51  |
| 5. Plymouth Argyle       | 46 | 5   | 49  |
| 6. Charlton Athletic     | 41 | 5   | 42  |
| 7. Portsmouth            | 41 | 5   | 42  |
| 8. Peterborough United   | 41 | 10  | 41  |
| 9. Scunthorpe United     | 41 | 5   | 41  |
| 10. Bristol Rovers       | 41 | -8  | 35  |
| 11. Fleetwood Town       | 46 | -8  | 34  |
| 12. Blackpool            | 42 | 7   | 33  |
| 13. Southend United      | 41 | 11  | 33  |
| 14. Breckford City       | 38 | 28  | 33  |
| 15. Dagenham             | 41 | -6  | 31  |
| 16. Dagenham Rovers      | 38 | 5   | 30  |
| 17. Oxford United        | 41 | 7   | 42  |
| 18. Walsall              | 46 | 10  | 42  |
| 19. AFC Wimbledon        | 41 | 10  | 46  |
| 20. Oxford Athletic      | 38 | 14  | 44  |
| 21. Rochdale             | 46 | 5   | 42  |
| 22. MK Dons              | 41 | 10  | 42  |
| 23. Northampton Town     | 41 | -10 | 40  |
| 24. Farnley              | 41 | -10 | 40  |



